

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 133

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bill Burleigh on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burleigh is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for nineteen years with Operation Stand Down Tennessee, a widely heralded nonprofit organization that helps veterans with job placement, housing, mental health, and other areas that aid them in transition from active duty to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, while Bill Burleigh will be entering into retirement, he fully expects to continue helping veterans. He said of his work "This is a calling from the Lord to do this. It's what I was called to do."; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burleigh's walk through life has, in many ways, emulated that of his World War II veteran father Jack Burleigh, who spent years quietly yet deftly giving personal aid, support, and comfort to struggling veterans; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burleigh grew up in Memphis and, though his desire was to avoid being drafted, that did not come to pass. He completed basic training at Fort Campbell, attended officer candidate school in Oklahoma and missile training in Utah, and he served in artillery unit combat in Vietnam for approximately seven months; and

WHEREAS, finding it personally challenging to reintegrate from military to civilian life, Mr. Burleigh began focusing his thoughts and actions on helping his comrades; and

WHEREAS, five years later, he joined the Tennessee National Guard, primarily as a source of income for him, his wife, and her four children. His service lasted for two decades and included a tour of duty in Iraq, and he retired in July 1998 at the rank of lieutenant colonel; and

WHEREAS, during his military career, Lt. Col. Burleigh received the Legion of Merit, one of the nation's highest peacetime awards, for consistently exceeding position performance goals and objectives. Over the years, the agency he has administered, and will soon be leaving, has been lauded as well; under his leadership, Operation Stand Down has won a host of awards from local, state, federal, and nonprofit entities, and in a tribute to his career, Bill Burleigh was selected as the Center for Nonprofit Management's CEO of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Bill Burleigh exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to this nation and the Volunteer State that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and his legacy of compassion and dedication to veterans is unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Burleigh has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his comrades and colleagues alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and congratulate Bill Burleigh upon the occasion of his retirement, thank him for his commitment and service to the well-being of veterans, and extend to him our best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.